

DOCKET NO: 217798US2PCT



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
CECILE JOUBERT, ET AL. : EXAMINER: HENDERSON, M.
SERIAL NO: 10/019,314 :
FILED: JANUARY 9, 2002 : GROUP ART UNIT: 3722
FOR: SECURED DOCUMENT, SYSTEM :
FOR MANUFACTURING SAME AND
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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the Restriction Requirement stated in the Official Action dated September 8, 2003, Applicants provisionally elect Group II, Claims 44-56, drawn to a security system apparatus, classified in Class 359, Subclass 2. Applicants respectfully traverse the outstanding Restriction Requirement. The outstanding Office Action states that the Inventions, Groups I and II, do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1, because they lack the same or corresponding special technical features. However, MPEP §803 states the following:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.

In the present application, Claims 29-43 are directed to documents including a hologram, and Claims 44-56 are direct to document security systems including a hologram. Thus, it appears

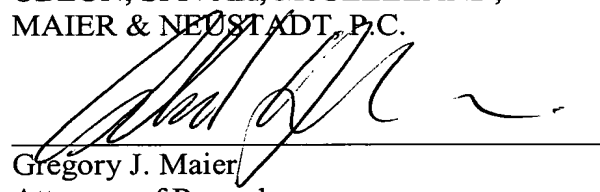
Application No. 10/019,314
Reply to Office Action of September 8, 2003

that all claims in the present application are part of an overlapping search area and that a search for Claims 44-56 would necessarily include a search directed to Claims 29-43 as well. It is therefore believed that there is no undue burden on the Examiner to search all the claims under MPEP §803, and Applicants respectfully traverse the Restriction Requirement on the grounds that a search and examination of the entire application would not place a *serious* burden on the Examiner.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the requirement to elect a single group be withdrawn, and that a full examination on the merits of Claims 29-56 be conducted.

Respectfully submitted,

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